AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A fuel-cell separator which is interposed between a plurality of electrolyte assemblies each constructed of an electrolyte layer containing an electrolyte medium and a catalytic electrode disposed on a surface in a thickness-wise direction of the electrolyte layer, the separator comprising:

a separating section for achieving separation between a fuel gas channel and an oxidizer gas channel; and

a sealing section disposed along an outer periphery of the separator, for preventing leakage of fuel gas and oxidizer gas[[,]]:

wherein the separating section is composed of a ~~flat~~ metal sheet serving as a core member, and a resin layer formed on a surface of the ~~flat~~ metal sheet,

the resin layer is provided with at least one of the fuel gas channel and the oxidizer gas channel, ~~the channel,~~

the sealing section is composed of [[a]] the metal sheet and the resin ~~a rubber~~ layer formed on a surface of the metal sheet, the metal sheet having an outer periphery bent in one of a U shape and a V shape, and provided with a sealing projection extending in parallel with a surface of the electrolyte assembly on which a catalytic electrode is formed, the sealing section having a vertex which is constituted so as to be brought into pressure-contact with the electrolyte assembly under a resilient force,

the sealing projection has a U-shaped or V-shaped sectional profile when viewed in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas flow,

the sealing section is formed in a manner such that~~, when the fuel cell is in its yet-to-be assembled condition,~~ the vertex of the sealing projection ~~extends~~ does not extend beyond a position of contact with the electrolyte assembly ~~in contrast to a case where the fuel cell is~~ in its assembled condition.

3. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 2, wherein on a surface of the resin layer is formed a high conductive layer having higher electrical conductivity than electrical conductivity of the resin layer.

4. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 3, wherein the high conductive layer is formed at least in a region of the resin layer which is in contact with the electrolyte assembly.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A fuel-cell separator which is interposed between a plurality of electrolyte assemblies each constructed of an electrolyte layer containing an electrolyte medium and a catalytic electrode disposed on a surface in a thickness-wise direction of the electrolyte layer, the separator comprising:

a separating section for achieving separation between a fuel gas channel and an oxidizer gas channel; and

a sealing section disposed along an outer periphery of the separator, for preventing leakage of fuel gas and oxidizer gas,

wherein the separating section is composed of a flat metal sheet serving as a core member, [[and]] a resin layer and a high conductive layer having higher conductivity than conductivity of the resin layer, which are formed on a surface of the ~~flat~~ metal sheet,

the high conductive layer is provided with at least one of the fuel gas channel and the oxidizer gas channel ~~the channel~~,

the sealing section is composed of [[a]] the metal sheet and the resin ~~a rubber~~ layer formed on a surface of the metal sheet, the metal sheet having an outer periphery bent in one of a U shape and a V shape, and provided with a sealing projection extending in parallel with a surface of the electrolyte assembly on which a catalytic electrode is formed, the sealing section having a vertex which is constituted so as to be brought into pressure-contact with the electrolyte assembly under a resilient force,

the sealing projection has a U-shaped or V-shaped sectional profile when viewed in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas flow, and

the sealing section is formed in a manner such that~~, when the fuel cell is in its yet-to-be assembled condition,~~ the vertex of the sealing projection ~~extends~~ does not extend beyond a position of contact with the electrolyte assembly ~~in contrast to a case where the fuel cell is~~ in its assembled condition.

7. (Currently Amended) The fuel-cell separator of claim 6, wherein the high conductive layer is a thinner film than the resign layer and the high conductive layer being formed of carbon~~, the high conductive layer being formed~~ through spraying of a dispersion of carbon particles.

8. (Currently Amended) The fuel-cell separator of claim [[1]]2, wherein the metal sheet is covered with a covering layer.

9. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 8, wherein the covering layer is formed on the metal sheet surface via an adhesive layer.

10. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 9, wherein the adhesive layer is formed of triazinethiol or polyaniline diffused on the metal sheet surface.

11. (Currently Amended) The fuel-cell separator of claim 8, wherein the covering layer is formed of rubber or synthetic resin having electrical conductivity~~, and wherein the~~ and the covering layer includes a electrically conductive ink, the electrically conducive ink contains[[:]]:

a vehicle composed of thermosetting monomer or thermosetting oligomer for forming the rubber or synthetic resin; and

an electrically conductive filler composed of a metal compound or carbon-base material.

12.-32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) The fuel-cell separator of claim 2, wherein the metal sheet is composed of a single metal sheet.

34. (New) The fuel-cell separator of claim 6, wherein the metal sheet is composed of a single metal sheet.